Fast Track Courts

*14. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fast track courts setup and the number of cases decided by these courts during the last one year; and

(b) the total number such courts to be setup during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) From 1st November, 2001 to 13th November, 2002, 404 fast track courts were set up, 504 fast track courts were made functional and 62,838 cases were decided by the fast track courts.

(b) The total number of fast track courts to be set up in the country are 1734 as per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. As on 13th November, 2002, 1234 fast track courts have been set up. The State Governments have been requested to set up the remaining Fast Track Courts keeping in view the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & Others.

Re-look of broadcasting sector

*15. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to take a re-look into the broadcasting sector;

(b) if so, by when the final decision for re-look into the broadcasting sector is likely to be taken; and

(c) whether some of the TV channels have started 24 hour news operation in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Developments in the Broadcasting sector are kept under constant review.

(c) Of the channels permitted to uplink from within the country, Aaj Tak, Sun News, Udaya News, Jain TV, Punjab Today, Zee News etc. have started 24-hour news operations. In addition, there are other 24- hour news channels uplinked from abroad but available for viewing in Indian TV homes through cable networks like Star News, CNN, BBC etc.

Disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

*16. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has been put off for a period of three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the decision marks a shift in Government's disinvestment policy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In February 2002. Government had decided 'in principle' to disinvest in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through strategic sale with the modalities to be worked out through consultations between the different ministries concerned on which several options are available. Final decision has not been taken so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Health care facilities

*17. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the immediate health care facilities needed by the people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any Centrally-sponsored or externally aided scheme is